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FIG. 1 shows an architecture 10 that illustrates two L2TP tunnels 56 and 66 established through a public IP network 70. Each L2TP tunnel is a prearranged point to point link between remote client 20 and server 80.

II. IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A method for determining an tunnel endpoint in a communications system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a connection request from a client;

responsive to the connection request, querying a database for a database entry matching the client using predetermined identifying information, where the matching database entry will include an identifier of a tunnel endpoint;

responsive to receiving a database reply including the identifier for the tunnel endpoint, establishing a connection for the client to the tunnel endpoint identified in the database reply; and responsive to not receiving a database reply;

establishing a connection for the client to a locally determined tunnel endpoint, and

updating the database to include a database entry that includes the predetermined identifying information for the client and an identifier for the locally determined tunnel endpoint.

10. (Amended) A network communication system, the system comprising:
a database device configured to store data entry, where the data entry is keyed by predetermined client identifying information and includes a tunnel endpoint identifier field, the